

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No. 10/046,710
Docket No. Q68136

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. These claim have been presented in a continuation application.

Allowable Subject Matter

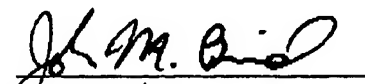
The Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As such, Applicants have rewritten claims 3 and 7 in independent form.

In view of the above, reconsideration and immediate allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


John M. Bird
Registration No. 46,027

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 18, 2004

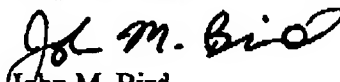
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No. 10/046,710
Docket No. Q68136

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Sir:

I hereby certify that the above identified correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Chau U. NGUYEN at the Patent and Trademark Office on February 18, 2004 at (703) 872-9306.

Respectfully submitted,


John M. Bird